



## *Nez Perce N.F.* **NEWS RELEASE**

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Nez Perce National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 11, 2008**

**Contact: Jennifer Stephenson  
(208) 983-4049**

Geof Hochmuht retired from the Forest Service after almost 40 years of dedicated service. Well, he sort of retired. Two weeks later he volunteered to help with additional restoration of the Historic Adams Ranger Station. Not surprising, since over the years Geof has been found volunteering, working as a casual firefighter and a contractor.

Geof is a person who inspires tall tales, but in his case most of them are true. So if you hear the story about a firefighter single-handedly holding off the Boise Bar fire by digging line from the top of the mountains down to the Salmon River, think of Geof.

Geof started his career in 1968 on the Missoula District, Lolo National Forest as a lookout for the West Fork Butte Lookout. In 1970, he transferred to the Hot Shot Crew on the Slate Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest. In 1973, Geof became known as G-1, the first smokejumper hired by the Nez Perce National Forest. He was a smokejumper from 1973 – 1978 and again from 1980 – 1989. In between his fire jobs he was a hydro-technician and engineering technician, all on the Nez Perce National Forest. For the past 13 years, Geof has been the airtanker base manager for the Grangeville Air Center.

Over the years Geof received training from and worked with the Forest Service Region One Historic Preservation Team. He assisted the Forest Heritage Department with the historic restoration of Burnt Knob, Sourdough, and Square Mountain Lookouts as well as the Adams Ranger's House. Geof's skills and expertise helped make the projects a success, ensuring these historic resources remain in the future for everyone to enjoy.

In 1974, Geof received a Bachelor's degree from Montana State University for Recreation Area Management. In 1983 he acquired a teaching certificate for Major Industrial Technology with a minor in Biology.

Geof's fondest memories of his Forest Service career have to do with smoke jumping and with most of the people he has met and worked with over the past 40 years.

Geof will continue to live in Grangeville. He plans to spend more time with family who live across the country; his mother, Dolores; father and step-mother, John and Judy; his brother, Greg; and sister, Joan, and his daughters, Kasey, Kelli and step-daughter, Teri.

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